

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
THOMAS LESTER BRATCHER

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Thomas Lester Bratcher, who resided near Cranfills Gap in Bosque County, Texas. He passed on November 3 at the age of 70.

Dr. Bratcher was born in Ft. Worth, Texas on July 9, 1942. He graduated from Eastern Hills High School in Ft. Worth and went on to receive a Bachelors of Science in mathematics from Arlington State College, and a Master of Science in statistics and Ph.D. in statistics from Southern Methodist University.

Dr. Bratcher would go on to teach statistics at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette. Years later he moved to central Texas to teach at Baylor University, where he specialized in Bayesian Methods. For the past 20 years he directed the Ph.D. program in statistics at Baylor. Dr. Bratcher was a founder and primary organizer of the Conference of Texas Statisticians which has been meeting now for 32 years.

Dr. Bratcher was an active participant in numerous causes, including the Arts Council and has been serving as Bosque County Republican Chairman since 2009. As Chairman, he was staunch supporter of conservative ideals and helped get city, county, state, and federal officials elected.

Dr. Bratcher was a member and past president of the Council of Texas Statisticians, a member and past president of the Southern Regional Council on Statistics, and a member of the American Statistical Association and the Sigma Xi Society. He was the author of numerous scholarly publications.

Dr. Bratcher is survived by his loving wife, Nancy, mother, Laura Margaret and his loving

children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

His loving wife said it best when she wrote that "his legacy—in all its many expressions of love, courage, integrity, principle, and unbridled passion for all he did—is with us always."

Today I pay tribute to a humble man who served Bosque County with honor and great respect. I know I am not alone as I say thank you, Dr. Thomas Bratcher, for all that you have done for the Bosque County community.

Mrs. Bratcher and her family remain in our prayers.

IN HONOR OF HARRISON INDUSTRIES' 80 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Harrison Industries, which was founded 80 years ago when E.J. Harrison offered to haul his neighbors' rubbish to the dump for 75 cents a load. His offer landed him 150 customers in the first year.

From those humble beginnings, Harrison Industries has continued to evolve and set the standards for rubbish collection while generously contributing to its community's success.

Family owned and operated Harrison Industries is one of the oldest and largest privately owned rubbish collection businesses in the United States. It provides residential, commercial, and industrial services to about 90,000 customers in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

E.J. died in 1991 but his wife, Myra, remains with the company as founder. Four generations of Harrison family members are involved in the day-to-day operations of the company. Myra's oldest son, Ralph, is president while her other sons, Jim and Myron, serve as vice presidents.

Harrison Industries is on the forefront of the recycling movement in California. In 1990, Harrison was among the first rubbish haulers in California to institute a three-barrel residential curbside recycling service for rubbish, recycling, and yard waste. Recyclables are delivered to Harrison's strategic partner Gold Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, while yard waste goes to Agromin, which uses cutting-edge technology to convert it into reusable soil amendments, barks, and mulches.

In 2012, Harrison Industries is undertaking new efforts toward achieving its goal of "Zero Waste."

Harrison Industries has won many awards in recognition of its financial support of local non-profit organizations and community cultural events.

Of the more than 150 non-profit organizations Harrison Industries has supported over the past eight decades, its substantial donations and support include: The E.J. Harrison Family Youth Center—the future home of the Saticoy branch of the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura; The Myra & E.J. Harrison Room at the East Ventura Boys & Girls Club; the inner courtyard of the Museum of Ventura County; The E.J. Harrison Family Promenade at Ojai's Libbey Bowl; The Harrison Industries Classroom/Computer Lab at the California State University Channel Islands' John Spoor Broome Library; the Ventura Cross; the Ventura Pier; Ventura County Fairgrounds; and, The "Eagle's Nest" at Carpinteria State Beach's Interpretive Play Area.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph, Jim, Myron, and their families have been friends of my wife, Janice, and me for a very long time. I know my colleagues join me in honoring the Harrison family and Harrison Industries for 80 years of business leadership, community service, and deep commitment to public service, and in wishing them continued success.